



The United States Army Band

"Pershing's Own"

Colonel Gary F. Lamb
Leader & Commander

The United States Army Band *"Pershing's Own"*

The U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own," has been the premier musical organization of the U.S. Army since 1922. Army Chief of Staff General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing founded the band, emulating European military bands he had heard during the first world war. "Pershing's Own" continues to play an important role in events of national and international significance, and leads every inaugural parade, a tradition begun in 1925 with the inauguration of President Calvin Coolidge.

The band became widely known during its early years for radio broadcasts featured on several networks. During World War II, the band was ordered overseas and performed throughout North Africa and Europe, becoming the only Washington-based band to participate in a theater of war. While in France, The U.S. Army Band received a battle streamer embroidered "Rhineland 1944-1945."

Since then, the band has expanded in scope and diversity, establishing several regular performing ensembles: The U.S. Army Concert Band, The U.S. Army Ceremonial Band, The U.S. Army Strings, The U.S. Army Chorus, The U.S. Army Herald Trumpets, The U.S. Army Blues Jazz Ensemble, The U.S. Army Chorale and The U.S. Army Brass Quintet.

Today the musicians of "Pershing's Own" render musical honors on a regular basis for



foreign dignitaries, heads of state, diplomats, high-ranking military officers, and recently performed for the state funeral of former President Ronald Reagan. The Army Band also plays a vital role in music education, often serving as the featured group at prominent music conferences and conventions throughout the nation and abroad.

The band performs outdoor concerts during the summer months on the West steps of the U.S. Capitol and throughout the Washington area. "Pershing's Own" and the 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard) also present "Twilight Tattoo," a military pageant on the grounds of The Ellipse, near The White House. During the cooler months, concerts and recitals are held inside Brucker Hall, The Army Band's home located on historic Fort Myer in Arlington, Virginia.



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The United States Army Concert Band

The U.S. Army Concert Band has a worldwide reputation for extraordinary musicianship in a variety of styles ranging from classical to popular.

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., The Army Concert Band performs outdoor concerts during the summer months on the grounds of the Ellipse (near the White House), on the West steps of the U.S. Capitol and venues throughout the Washington Metro area.

As part of the Fall and Winter/Spring Concert and Recital series, full-ensemble concerts and individual recitals are performed inside The Army Band's training facility, Brucker Hall, on Fort Myer in Arlington, Virginia.

In an effort to promote international goodwill, the 65-piece traditional concert band has performed joint concerts with the Soviet Army,



the Russian Navy and the Ukrainian Navy bands.

Concert Band musicians, many with master's and doctoral degrees, have appeared in military tattoos in Scotland, Sweden, Holland, Norway, Australia and Japan.

The power and repertoire of the concert band is greatly enhanced when combined with other musical ensembles of The Army Band, such as The Army Herald Trumpets and The Army Chorus.



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The United States Army Ceremonial Band

The U.S. Army Band was ordered overseas to perform for our fighting soldiers and allies in June of 1943. During that two year overseas tour, a representative element known as the “auxiliary band” was established to fulfill the diplomatic and military ceremonial needs in the nation’s capital.

Since its origins in 1943, The U.S. Army Ceremonial Band today has grown to meet a wide range of commitments. The Band’s primary mission is to support over 1,000 military funerals each year in Arlington National Cemetery.

Wreath laying ceremonies by foreign dignitaries at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier are accompanied by the playing of *Taps* and the national anthems of both the visitor’s country and the United States. Monthly retirement



parades and special review ceremonies at Forts Myer and McNair and arrival and departure honors for foreign dignitaries at The White House and the Pentagon are also part of the group’s busy schedule.

Commitments performed by The Army Ceremonial Band are an integral and indispensable part of the overall mission of “Pershing’s Own.”



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The United States Army Strings

The U.S. Army Strings provide a musical backdrop for many of this country's most notable events. Their extensive repertoire spans many genres of popular music from Bach to Broadway and Elvis to Cole Porter.

Musical excellence combined with elegance and grace have made this ensemble a favorite means of welcoming guests to the Nation's capital for many years.

Since their inception during the Eisenhower administration, they have regularly performed in the White House for every president and an impressive list of foreign heads of state. Memorable occasions have included performances for the emperor of Japan, the premier of China, and the presidents of Brazil, France and Korea.

The Army Strings have performed at Economic Summits of the Industrialized Nations at Williamsburg, Virginia, and Houston, Texas, as well as historical meetings in Egypt and Mos-



cow. They have entertained for Queen Elizabeth II, the Camp David Accords and for several presidential inaugurations.

The Strings provide support for the State Department, the Supreme Court, the Department of Defense, and other official functions. They recently performed for the state funeral of former President Ronald Reagan at the National Cathedral. These elite Army musicians form the nucleus of The U.S. Army Orchestra, which expands the group's repertoire to include traditional orchestral music. In addition, they also combine with The Army Blues Jazz Ensemble to create The Army Jazz Orchestra.



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The United States Army Chorus

In 1956, The U.S. Army Chorus was established as the vocal counterpart of The U.S. Army Band and is one of the nation's only professional, all male choruses.

From its inception, The Army Chorus has established and maintained a reputation of excellence in the performance of male choral literature. Beyond the traditional military music and patriotic standards, the repertoire of The Chorus covers a broad spectrum which includes pop, Broadway, folk and classical music.

The Chorus performs often at The White House and in support of functions hosted by the State Department and Department of Defense. The Chorus participated in the dedication of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library, the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, and the George W. Bush Presidential Library. The Chorus is a standard feature at events for each presidential inaugural, and was most recently featured with Jessye Norman during the 1997 Swearing-In Ceremony at the U.S. Capitol.

World leaders, such as Queen Elizabeth II, the Princess of Thailand, former British Prime Minister John Major, and former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev have been serenaded by The Chorus during state visits. These visiting dignitaries are often greeted in their native tongues, as The Chorus is able to sing in more than twenty-five languages.

The Chorus regularly appears with the National Symphony in televised Memorial Day



and Independence Day performances from the U.S. Capitol. The group has been featured on many well-known stages, including the Kennedy Center, Radio City Music Hall, the Hollywood Bowl and Carnegie Hall. In recent years, The Chorus has also performed with the San Francisco Symphony, the Grant Park Symphony (Chicago) and was featured during weekly radio and television broadcast of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Recently they gained national recognition performing for the funeral of former President Ronald Reagan.

The men of The Chorus, most of whom hold advanced degrees in music, are selected from among the nation's finest musicians. The ensemble celebrated its 45th Anniversary in 2001 with a reunion of past members, many of whom have gone on to successful careers in music education and as soloists on Broadway and opera stages around the world.



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The United States Army Chorale

The U.S. Army Chorale has rapidly achieved national recognition as the only professional vocal ensemble of its kind. Focusing on the wide diversity in American popular music, The Chorale's repertoire includes selections from the Broadway stage, jazz standards, contemporary country and Top-40 charts.

The Chorale performs hundreds of times each year for a variety of audiences. Along with providing musical support to the White House, senior Army leadership and foreign diplomatic guests, The Chorale is recognized as a driving force in the vocal music world. The group has performed at the International Association of Jazz Educators conference and has participated in the Brightleaf Music Festival and other prestigious gatherings of musicians. The Chorale appears regularly with the National Symphony Orchestra during the National Memorial Day and Fourth of July concerts from the west



lawn of the U.S. Capitol.

Well-known in Washington, D.C. for their yuletide performances of "A Holiday Festival" in Constitution Hall, The Chorale also appears in The Army Band's summer concert series at venues throughout the Washington Metropolitan area.

The men and women of The Army Chorale are chosen for their musical versatility and showmanship. Their performances combine fresh musical arrangements and choreography that never fails to entertain.



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The United States Army Blues Jazz Ensemble

Formed in 1972, The Army Blues carries on a tradition begun by the Army Dance Band, which entertained soldiers and civilians in the battle zone during World War II.

As the official jazz band of "Pershing's Own," and one of the few remaining professional groups of its kind, the Blues' present-day mission is to promote America's art form: jazz.

The Blues pay tribute to the big bands of yesterday by performing the music made popular by such greats as Ellington, Basie, Miller and Herman. At the same time, The Army Blues perform their own versions of the latest and most innovative sounds of contemporary composers. The band is also making its own mark on the future of jazz by performing original works by U.S. Army Band staff arrangers and composers plus those by members of the Army Blues themselves.

The Blues have performed at international jazz festivals throughout the world, including the Montreux Jazz Festival in Montreux, Switzerland in July 1991. The 18-piece ensemble has shared the stage with such jazz greats as



Stanley Turrentine, Louis Bellson and Dave Brubeck, in addition to backing up show business headliners Bob Hope, Wayne Newton and Alabama.

The Blues have performed at the White House and regularly entertain at military and State Department functions and events. Recently they performed for the opening ceremony of the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. In support of the Army recruiting effort, the Army Blues present frequent concerts at schools throughout the country. Through clinic presentations, the musicians share their knowledge and experience with students in a positive interaction that is both educational and mutually gratifying.



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The United States Army Herald Trumpets

Whether arrayed on the balcony of The White House hailing the arrival of visiting dignitaries from around the world or providing a thrilling climax to a concert, The U.S. Army Herald Trumpets are one of the most spectacular performing groups in the United States.

Since their establishment in 1959, The Herald Trumpets have performed on numerous historical occasions. Their first official performance welcomed Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II to the United States for the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway. In the ensuing years they have performed for an illustrious array of presidents, prime ministers and royalty.

The Heralds performed fanfares during the opening ceremonies for the 1980 Winter, 1984 Summer, 1996 Summer and 2002 Winter Olympics and the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia. Their appearances at several World's Fairs, the opening of Walt



Disney World and for the Economic Summits in 1984 and 1990 were critically acclaimed.

The Army Herald Trumpets were viewed by millions worldwide while performing at the televised relighting of the Statue of Liberty and at the annual national holiday celebrations "A Capitol Fourth" and "Christmas in Washington."

The trumpets heralded the arrival of all foreign leaders for the ceremonies commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations in San Francisco, New York City and Washington, D.C.



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The United States Army Brass Quintet

Since its inception in 1972, The U.S. Army Brass Quintet has performed for a wide variety of audiences and dignitaries in Europe, Asia, Australia and across North America. An element of The U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own" in Washington, D.C., the Quintet performs at the White House and at such televised national events as presidential inaugurations and official state ceremonies in the nation's capitol. The ensemble has been selected repeatedly as the first to honor our new presidents with the traditional "Hail to the Chief" on live national broadcasts and recently performed in the Capitol Rotunda for the state funeral of former President Ronald Reagan. The Quintet frequently performs for special events hosted by the Secretary of Defense the Secretary of the Army, and the Army Chief of Staff; as well as ceremonies supporting the Military District of Washington.

The group has premiered numerous compositions for brass quintet and has generated countless new arrangements for this growing medium. Their recordings, television appearances and live radio broadcasts in both the United States and Great Britain have brought their music to millions.

The Quintet has entertained nation-wide audiences with its performances on National Public Radio, NBC's "Today Show", the CBS "Sunday Morning Show", ABC, Fox TV, CNN, TNN, "Larry King Live", as well as international audiences on the BBC. It has also performed on a wide variety of local and regional broadcasts such as WCBS in New York. Recently, the Quintet has found itself performing the National Anthem for televised Major



League Baseball, NBA and NHL games as well as NASCAR races. It has even been featured on the Food Network.

The repertoire for this ensemble includes over 500 selections from all eras and genres of classical music as well as a variety of popular music, interactive entertainment, video and works for children's concerts. The Quintet's library also includes historic music from the American Civil War which the ensemble enjoys performing on authentic instruments. Commissioned works as well as works produced by the Army Band's arranging staff complete its repertoire.

The Quintet enjoys an outstanding tradition of supporting national and international educational conferences such as Music Educators National Conference, The Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, as well as the international conferences of the various brass associations. The ensemble was the first military group to start the tradition of performing for the instrument associations in 1977 at the International Trumpet Guild Conference.